



Environmental Improvement Work to Begin at River Mile 10.9 on the Lower Passaic

The Lower Passaic River Study Area Cooperating Parties Group (CPG) is a group of 70 companies working on the investigation and removal of contaminated sediment and capping in an area of the Lower Passaic River known as River Mile 10.9 in Lyndhurst. This work, occurring in a 5.5 acre area adjacent to Riverside County Park and Thomas F. Gallagher Memorial Recreation Area, is being completed with oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other government entities. The area was identified as part of a comprehensive, ongoing investigation of a 17-mile stretch of the river, from Newark Bay to Dundee Dam in Garfield that the CPG is conducting, also under EPA oversight.

This fact sheet is intended to provide the public with information about the activities planned for this project, which is scheduled to begin this summer and be completed this fall.

Planned Work Stages

Project Mobilization

Mobilization of the equipment at the site will begin in June. The CPG will use barges to transport contaminated sediment from the River Mile (RM) 10.9 Removal Area. These barges will also transport capping materials and dredging equipment, including cranes and environmental dredging buckets to the Removal Area. No equipment, sediment or other materials will be staged or transported through the park, recreation area or local streets during this phase of the project.

Sediment Removal

This Summer, the top two feet of sediment in the riverbed – approximately 20,000 cubic yards – will be dredged in an area adjacent to the Riverside County Park.

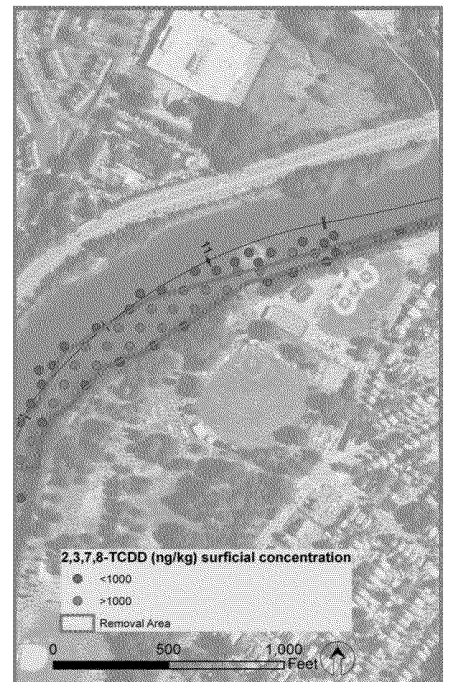
Sediment will be removed with specialized environmental dredging buckets – lowered and raised slowly in the River – and then transferred onto a barge. This is an intentionally slow and controlled process to minimize the amount of re-suspension of sediment in the River. This removal work is scheduled to take place 12 hours a day (from dawn to dusk), for six days a week over a period of eight weeks. No overnight work is planned.

Transportation of Material

Several bridges will need to be opened to support mobilization and demobilization of equipment. Bridge openings will also be required to support the transport of dredged materials and capping materials to and from the Removal Area. It is anticipated that five bridges will require opening to support the transport of materials to and from the project site: the DeJessa Park Avenue Bridge (RM 10.37), Rutgers (Route 7) Bridge (RM 8.53), Clay Street Bridge (RM 5.83), Bridge Street Bridge (RM 5.41), and the Penn RR at Center Street Bridge (RM 4.75). In order to minimize the disruption of surface traffic, these openings will be coordinated to occur at night or in the early morning hours.

Capping

Once dredging is completed, the CPG will install an engineered cap over the Removal Area. The cap will be approximately two feet thick and consist of erosion-resistant armor stone, a permeable fabric (known commonly as geotextile), sand and a layer of activated carbon. Once installed, this cap will ensure that remaining contaminated sediment is isolated and does not pose unacceptable human health or ecological risks.



This map shows concentrations of 2,3,7,8 TCDD at RM 10.9

Community Health and Safety

The CPG is dedicated to working closely with Lyndhurst, Bergen County, community groups and residents who live or spend time in or near the Riverside County Park and the Township's recreation area to keep them informed about the project and include their input wherever possible. All work will be conducted consistent with the EPA-approved worker and community Health and Safety plans to ensure that no adverse effects occur. Input from the community has been and will continue to be incorporated into these plans.

No contaminated sediment or capping material will be staged in the park or recreation area, or transported via local streets and roads. All work will be conducted from the water. The CPG is working with Lyndhurst and Bergen County officials to ensure that the park, recreation area and River can continue to be used safely during the project.

The CPG will conduct air monitoring on a continuous basis, and will monitor the weather closely. Work will be adjusted or temporarily stopped as necessary to ensure the continued health and safety of the community.

The CPG will coordinate with local recreational boating organizations and the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure that River users are aware of the removal activities. The CPG will also provide 24-hour security in the vicinity of the removal activities during the removal action.

Contact Us

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